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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/789,746

Examiner

Steven S. Paik

Applicant(s)

WASHINGTON ET AL.

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Preliminary Amendment filed 2/27/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 45-63.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/30/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 02/18/05
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


STEVEN S. PAIK
 PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Preliminary Amendment filed February 27, 2004. The amendment canceled claims 2-44 and added new claims 45-63.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Daniel Wasil on February 18, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

CLAIMS

1. (Previously amended) An apparatus including:
 - a cassette,
 - wherein the cassette is adapted for use in an automated banking machine,
 - wherein the cassette is operative to hold media therein,
 - wherein the cassette includes a cassette lid,
 - wherein the cassette includes a media pusher,
 - wherein the pusher is operative to move media in a first direction,
 - wherein the pusher includes a flexible portion,

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wherein the flexible portion is flexible between a flexed condition and a non-flexed condition,

wherein overloaded media in the cassette is operative to place the flexible portion in the flexed condition,

wherein the flexible portion in the flexed condition is operative to prevent closure of the cassette lid.

2-44. (canceled)

45. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the flexible portion in the non-flexed condition is operative to permit closure of the cassette lid.

46. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the lid includes a rib, wherein the rib is operative to engage the flexible portion in the flexed condition during closing of the lid to prevent closure of the lid.

47. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 46 wherein the rib is operative to avoid engagement with the flexible portion in the non-flexed condition during closure of the lid.

48. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 47 wherein the rib is attached to the lid.

49. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 47 wherein the rib is integral with the lid.

50. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 49 wherein the lid and the +lid rib are of one-piece.

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51. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the flexible portion is attached to the pusher.

52. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the flexible portion is integral with the pusher.

53. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 52 wherein the flexible portion and the pusher are of one-piece.

54. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the flexible portion comprises a resilient arm.

55. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the pusher comprises a media pusher plate.

56. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 55 wherein the flexible portion is operatively connected to the pusher plate.

57. (Previously presented) An apparatus including:

a cassette,

wherein the cassette is adapted for use in an automated banking machine,

wherein the cassette is operative to hold media therein,

wherein the cassette includes a cassette lid,

wherein the cassette includes a media pusher plate,

wherein the pusher plate is operative to move media in a first direction,

wherein the cassette includes a media overload prevention arrangement,

wherein the arrangement includes a lid rib,

wherein the arrangement includes a pusher plate flexible arm,

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wherein the arm is flexible between a flexed position and a non-flexed position,
wherein overloaded media in the cassette is operative to place the arm in the
flexed position,

wherein the rib is operative to engage the arm in the flexed position to prevent
closure of the lid,

wherein the rib is operative to avoid the arm in the non-flexed position to permit
closure of the lid.

58. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 57 wherein the apparatus
includes media, wherein the media comprises currency, wherein the cassette is overloaded
therein with currency, and wherein the overloaded currency is operative to prevent closure of the
cassette lid.

59. (Currently Amended) A method including:

- (a) overloading an automated banking machine cassette with media, wherein the
overloading causes a cassette component to flex;
- (b) moving ~~a~~ the cassette lid toward a closed position, wherein the cassette lid includes
a rib;
- (c) engaging the rib with the flexed cassette component, wherein the lid is prevented
from closing.

60. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 59 wherein (a) includes
causing a media pusher plate component to flex.

61. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 60 wherein (a) includes
causing a tip of the media pusher plate to flex.

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62. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 59 wherein the media comprises currency, wherein (a) includes overloading the cassette with currency.

63. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 59 and further comprising

(d) removing media from the cassette;

(e) closing the cassette lid.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1 and 45-63 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: none of the prior arts of the record discloses, teaches or fairly suggests the claimed method and apparatus comprising, among other things, a currency cassette and a currency stack push plate having a flexible arm. The flexible arm portion is flexible between a flexed condition and a non-flexed condition for the purpose of preventing full closure of a cassette lid including a rib. Youn (US 6,592,118) discloses a media cassette having a push plate and a locking mechanism. However, the cassette does not disclose a cassette lid including a rib for preventing full closure of the lid during closing. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify teachings of prior art to meet the claimed limitations as set forth in the present claimed invention.

Conclusion


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven S. Paik whose telephone number is 571-272-2404. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri (5:30am-2:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Steven S. Paik
Primary Examiner
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ssp